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Associated Press Wirephoto

CAUCUS ON THE SKI SLOPES: Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Democrat of New York, gives three of his children some tips during their vacation at Sun Valley, Idaho.

Text of Statement by Publisher of Book

Following is the text of a statement issued yesterday by Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., in the controversy over "The Death of a President," a book written by William Manchester:

My experience in connection with "The Death of a President" has been the most trying and distressing one in a 40-year publishing career, and Evan Thomas, the editor of the book at Harper & Row, shares my distress. We take great pride in being the publishers of President Kennedy's great book, "Profiles in Courage," and of books by Senator Robert F. Kennedy. When the Kennedy family asked us to publish the Manchester book and we agreed to do so, they were asking us to assume the responsibilities of a publisher. It is a function we have exercised honorably and professionally over nearly 150 years.

I want to stress how very badly I feel that Mrs. Kennedy, for whom I have such deep regard and respect, is so disturbed about the book. The principals involved in this dispute are all people for whom I have deep regard and admiration. Mr. Manchester's book itself is a moving, sincere and outstanding piece of writing. He has been subject to many repeated pressures for many months. He was asked to prepare for publication an accurate account of the events of the assassination and he was assured that his role as an author would be respected.

Understandably, the members of the Kennedy family were unwilling to read the manuscript themselves and hence they designated representatives to do this for them. Had they read it themselves, the present situation might have been avoided.

Harper & Row was not motivated by profit when it undertook the publication of this book. On the contrary, all Harper profits will go to the Kennedy Library except for a small return to Harper's on our first printing. In no event will this limit be exceeded. Mr. Manchester is also making substantial contributions to the library from his earnings on the book. Incidentally Harper & Row's advance to him was $40,000 and not the $675,000 erroneously reported by the press.

In the interest of historical accuracy and of the people's right to know the true facts of the awesome tragedy—the right to know which led the Kennedy family to request Mr. Manchester to write his book and us to publish it—we join with him in defending the book's right to live.